

Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus (A. Nels. & J.F. Macbr.) A. Nels. & J.F. Macbr.
mariposa lily, sagebrush lily
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

Status: State Endangered

Rank: G5T2S1

General Description: A perennial herb with an erect, stout, and usually unbranched stem arising from a basal bulblet. The leaves are linear and channeled, becoming inrolled at the tip. The flowers are showy and erect. Each white petal has a longitudinal green stripe with a transverse reddish-purple band above the gland. The sepals are narrowly lanceolate and generally longer than the petals, which are wide and taper to a sharp point. The petals are bearded above the gland with slender hairs. The linear ovary tapers to a three-cleft stigma. The linear fruit capsules are 3-angled and contain flat, straw-colored seeds.

Identification Tips: The taxon may be distinguished from *C. macrocarpus* var. *macrocarpus* by its white petals with a reddish-purple band and narrow, 3-sided fruits.

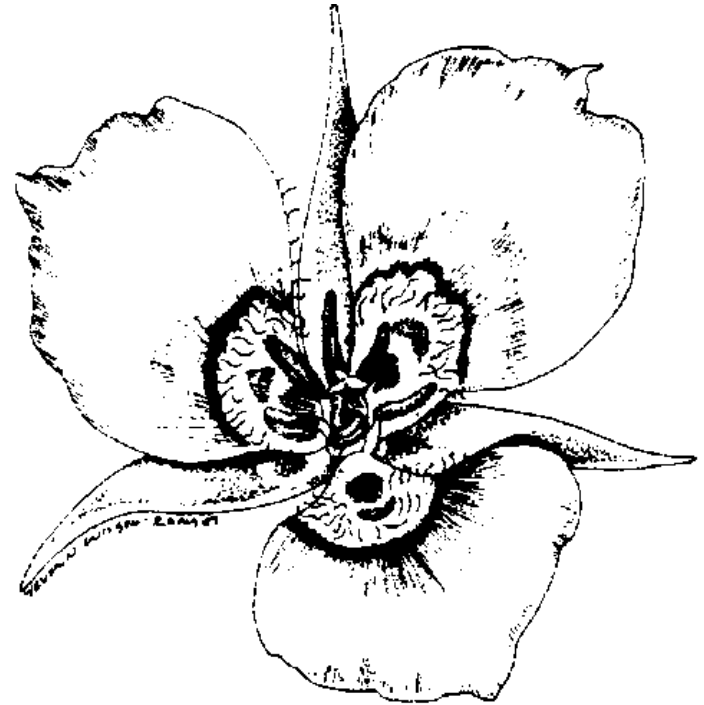
Phenology: The taxon has been observed in flower and fruit during July and August.

Range: Columbia Plateau region of eastern Washington and northern Idaho. In Washington, the species is only, and rarely, encountered on the grasslands of the Umatilla National Forest in Asotin and Garfield Counties.

Habitat: *Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus* can be found in pristine habitats at low, mid, or upper elevations. It occurs in rocky, basaltic soils and substrates on hillsides, rock outcrops and cliffbands. The species has also been observed in grasslands on steep slopes. The invasive St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) is increasing in and around existing populations of *C. macrocarpus* var. *maculosus*. Other known associates include bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.), arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), and Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*).

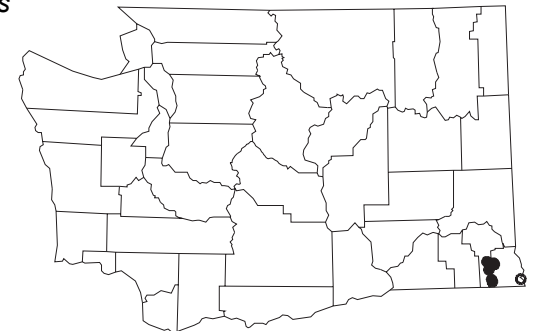
Ecology: This taxon prefers dry, undisturbed habitats at varying elevations.

Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus
mariposa lily, sagebrush lily



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Known distribution of
Calochortus macrocarpus
var. *maculosus*
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Stephen Lowens



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State Status Comments: The estimated total population in Washington is less than 1,000 plants.

Inventory Needs: Inventories should be conducted in appropriate habitats within its range.

Threats and Management Concerns: Both varieties of *C. macrocarpus* are highly palatable to livestock and can easily be extirpated from heavily grazed areas. Hitchcock (1964) notes that although the common variety of the species was abundant only a few years prior to his writing, it has been completely eliminated from areas that were suitable for cultivation, such as areas in the Columbia Basin. However, the preference of *C. macrocarpus* var. *maculosus* for rugged, remote terrain protects the variety from some grazing threats.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams Gymnosperms and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 914 pp.